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Thursday, May 10, 2018

WEATHER, p. 2

THU: 69°F | 53°F
Partly Cloudy

FRI: 66°F | 50°F
Sunny

SAT: 55°F | 52°F
Showers Likely

Junot Díaz accused of misconduct by multiple women

Díaz responds in statement: 'I take responsibility for my past'

By Sharon Chao
NEWS EDITOR

Comparative Media Studies/Writing professor and Pulitzer Prize winner Junot Díaz was accused of inappropriate and abusive behavior by multiple women May 4. Writer Zinzi Clemmons first tweeted that Díaz forcibly kissed her when she was a graduate student at Columbia. Following her tweet, authors Carmen Maria Machado and Monica Byrne SM '05 wrote that Díaz had behaved in a misogynistic and threatening manner towards them.

"As a grad student, I invited Junot Diaz to speak to a workshop on issues of representation in literature," Clemmons wrote. "I was an unknown wide-eyed 26 yo, and he used it as an opportunity to corner and forcibly kiss me. I'm far from the only one he's done this 2, I refuse to be silent anymore."

In response to Clemmons, Machado, a National Book Award finalist, tweeted about an instance when Díaz argued aggressively with her after she asked him about one of his character's unhealthy relationships with women.

"He asked me to back up my claim with evidence," Machado wrote. "I cited several passages from the book in front of me. He raised his voice, paced, implied I was a prude who didn't know how to read or draw reasonable conclusions from text."

Byrne wrote on Twitter that Díaz shouted the word "rape" in her face when she disagreed with him on a minor point at a dinner. In a separate Facebook post, she wrote, "Díaz didn't physically assault me. But shouting the word 'rape' in my face is absolutely verbal sexual assault. Moreover, I was struck by the total disconnect between his public persona of a progressive literary idol and how he actually treated women."

In a subsequent tweet, Clemmons, who was recognized as one of the National Book Foundation's '5 Under 35,' wrote that she believed Díaz tried to preempt accusations like hers by writing an autobiographical piece in The New Yorker last month, revealing that he was raped as a child by an adult he trusted and detailing how the trauma continued to affect his life and troubled relationships with women.

Díaz later responded to the allegations in a statement to *The New York Times* through his literary agent, saying, "I take responsibility for my past. That is the reason I made the decision to tell the truth of my rape and its damaging aftermath. This conversation is important and must continue. I am listening to and learning from women's stories in this essential and overdue cultural movement. We must continue to teach all men about consent and boundaries."

MIT released a statement May 7. "As MIT looks into concerns shared on social media regarding Professor Diaz, we wish to make clear that we do not tolerate sexual harassment at MIT: at all times, we encourage any member of our community who has experienced or witnessed harassing behavior to report it using the resources we make available. Both accusers and the accused have rights and protections within the

Díaz, Page 12

EURAH KO

A student performs at the 12th installment of Fierce Forever, a drag show organized by MIT students at the MIT Media Lab May 4.

Student-run humanities comp. won't happen next year

2018 competition delayed until fall due to lack of judges

By Sharon Chao
NEWS EDITOR

MIT INSPIRE, a national high school research competition in the arts, humanities, and social sciences run by a group of MIT students, will not continue next year. This year's competition, which was supposed have its final round in April, will be delayed until the fall due to a lack of judges. The competition will also be organized by the Student Activities Office instead because there are currently only two students involved.

The competition involves submission of a research report in the arts, humanities, or social sciences. The deadline to submit the form for intent to participate was in December 2017, and the deadline for report submission in January 2018. Originally, the finalists were to be announced in late February to early March, and the final round would be held on campus April 8–10, according to the MIT INSPIRE website.

However, the student organizers of MIT INSPIRE sent an email to participants March 17, writing that due to "logistical difficulties," they would not be able to host the finalists to present their research in person. Instead, the winners would be announced via email by May 1.

Then, on April 3, the organizers sent another email to participants that the competition was cancelled. "Despite our best efforts, we have not been able to recruit the necessary number of judges to evaluate submissions properly. As a result, we will neither be selecting winners nor releasing a list of finalists," the email stated.

The competition participants were disappointed. "We understand that the organizers of the competition might have been busy with other things. But, why were they even going on with this if they didn't even know they had judges

INSPIRE, Page 12

IN SHORT

Pre-registration for summer and fall 2018 are now open. The deadline to initiate pre-registration and to make fall CI-H/HW selections is June 18.

Spring semester subject evaluations are due May 21 at 9 a.m. Access them at http://web.mit.edu/subjectevaluation.

The Tech Shuttle has begun a new morning route (6:15 a.m.–2:30 p.m. Monday–Friday), incorporating the changes made along Wadsworth Street for the Kendall Square project. Realtime schedule information can be found at m.mit.edu.

Send news and tips to *news@tech.mit.edu*.

SABRINA CHENG—THE TECH

East Side Festival participants TP Transparent Horizons on May 5. The annual tradition, which involves covering the sculpture with toilet paper, is borrowed from Steer Roast.

MIT will not be held liable for student suicide

Mass. Court sets guidelines for future cases

By Patrick Wahl
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

The Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court ruled Monday that MIT, as well as two professors and an S3 dean, will not be held liable for the 2009 suicide of PhD student Han Nguyen. The decision stated that universities have a special relationship with the student and thus a special duty regarding suicide prevention, but the actions of MIT and of the individuals involved in this case did not fall within the realm of this duty.

The case, brought against MIT in 2011 by Nguyen's father, made its way to the state's highest court, which heard it last September.

Nguyen sought treatment for his mental health at hospitals outside of MIT, but did not engage with MIT mental health officials other than a few visits to MIT Medical and S3, which he found unsatisfactory. The professors involved in the case, Drazen Prelec and Birger Wernerfelt, understood that Nguyen was struggling with anxiety and health issues in the time leading up to his death.

The court found that because

Lawsuit, Page 12

SHINING LIGHT ON MIT'S PAST

Students argue for the significance of the MIT and Slavery class's research. **OPINION, p. 5**

WHOLE (HEART) FOODS

New Central Square restaurant serves stylish vegan food. **ARTS, p. 8**

MEET SARAH

A grad student who was part of the GSC and likes sewing. **CAMPUS LIFE, p. 9**

MEAN GHOULS

Prom. But Monsters. **ARTS, p. 6**

FINALS NOT THE ONLY THING CRUSHING YOU?

Auntie Matter on asking people out. **CAMPUS LIFE, p. 9**

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Country may step up its nuclear program, Ayatollah says

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran's supreme leader Wednesday hinted that his country might step up its nuclear program, signaling a possible escalation in an already volatile relationship with Washington after President Donald Trump announced he was pulling the United States out of the 2015 nuclear deal.

Trump said Tuesday that the United States would leave the agreement, under which Iran agreed to strict limits for 15 years on its development of nuclear fuel. The deal was intended to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons, in return for an easing of economic sanctions. But now, Trump said, the United States will reimpose sanctions.

Iran has always insisted that its uranium enrichment was intended only to operate nuclear power plants and conduct research, but it also put Iran closer to producing fuel that could be used in atomic bombs.

"Last night, you heard the president of America making petty and mindless statements," Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iran's supreme leader, told a group of teachers in his Tehran office, according to the semiofficial news agency Fars. "There were perhaps more than 10 lies in his statements."

—Thomas Erdbrink, The New York Times

McKinsey hid conflicts of interest from courts, lawsuit says

Jay Alix, a prominent restructuring specialist, sued McKinsey & Co. on Wednesday, accusing the management-consulting firm of misleading the bankruptcy courts about conflicts of interest.

Alix, the founder of the consulting firm AlixPartners, filed suit under the federal Racketeering Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act, saying McKinsey "knowingly and intentionally submitted false and materially misleading declarations under oath" in cases where it had been hired as a bankruptcy consultant.

The declarations allowed McKinsey "to unlawfully conceal its many significant connections to 'interested parties'" in the bankruptcies, according to the complaint. Had the connections been known, it said, McKinsey would have been precluded from working on those cases.

The complaint also accused McKinsey of offering "pay to play" deals to various bankruptcy lawyers, in which McKinsey would offer "to refer its vast network of consulting clients" to them if in exchange they would refer their bankruptcy clients to McKinsey's restructuring business.

—Mary Williams Walsh, The New York Times

Releasing three, North Koreans signal openness

WASHINGTON — The release of three American prisoners cleared away a last obstacle on Wednesday to a landmark nuclear summit meeting between President Donald Trump and North Korea's leader, Kim Jong Un.

North Korea freed the prisoners, all Americans of Korean descent, even as the two countries finalized details for a meeting between their leaders. The move was North Korea's most tangible gesture aimed at improving relations with the United States since Trump took office.

The resolution of the prisoner standoff hardly guaranteed success at the meeting, which will grapple with the far more complicated issues of North Korea's nuclear arsenal, divisions on the peninsula and security in Asia. But U.S. officials said it sent another signal that North Korea may be serious about ending its long confrontation with the United States and its allies after nearly seven decades of mutual antagonism.

—Peter Baker, Julie Hirschfeld Davis and Choe Sang-hun, The New York Times

Trump bets sanctions will force Iran to bargain

By David E. Sanger
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump said on Wednesday that he expects Iran to continue to comply with the terms of the 2015 deal that limits Tehran's nuclear program, even as the United States violates it by reimposing what he called "among the strongest sanctions that we've ever put on a country."

"I would advise Iran not to start their nuclear program," Trump told reporters in a vague warning at the White House, a day after he withdrew the United States from the accord that was brokered between Iran and world powers.

Beyond betting that Iran's leaders will return to the negotiating table, and seek a better deal, once they feel the sanctions' bite, the president appeared to acknowledge that he has no Plan B for dealing with Tehran.

"Iran will come back and say, 'We don't want to negotiate,'" Trump told reporters. "And of course, they're going to say that. And if I were in their position, I'd say that, too, for the first couple of months: 'We're not going to negotiate.'"

"But they'll negotiate, or something will happen," Trump said. "And hopefully that won't be the case."

President Hassan Rouhani of Iran said Tuesday that he had instructed his foreign minister to determine if negotiators from European nations, Russia and China could make up for the economic benefits that Iran would lose after the U.S. withdrawal.

Only then would he decide, Rouhani said, whether to instruct Iran's Atomic Energy Organization to resume the enrichment of uranium. Under the accord, Iran is prohibited through 2030 from possessing enough nuclear fuel to manufacture a single nuclear weapon.

On Wednesday, Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who ultimately approved the terms of the 2015 deal, declared that his country will need 20,000 megawatts of nuclear electricity for its power grid. He did not explicitly suggest resuming uranium enrichment, but for years Iran insisted that its nuclear program was for civilian use — even though it was already buying fuel from Russia to power its one major reactor.

After Trump announced his decision, the leaders of Britain, France and Germany on Tuesday reaffirmed their support for a U.N. Security Council resolution that formally endorsed the accord. The European leaders asserted that the resolution was the applicable international law governing the Iranian nuclear problem — a way of suggesting that the United States was the first country to violate the accord.

They also noted that Trump's own intelligence officials — including Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, when he was serving as CIA director — have said he saw no evidence that Iran had violated the deal.

DeVos loosens restrictions on federal aid to religious colleges

By Erica L. Green
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — Education Secretary Betsy DeVos, a lifelong advocate of Christian education, moved on Wednesday to loosen federal regulations on religious universities, after a Supreme Court decision that restricted states from denying some kinds of aid to religious institutions.

The measure is part of a sweeping deregulatory agenda for the Education Department announced on Wednesday by the White House budget office, which outlined several rules and regulations for the department to scrap or amend. Among those are rules that restrict faith-based entities from receiving federally administered funding.

"Various provisions of the department's regulations regarding eligibility of faith-based entities and activities do not reflect the latest case law regarding religion or unnecessarily restrict religion," said Liz Hill, an Education Department spokeswoman. "The department plans to review and to amend such regulations in order to be more inclusive."

Education Department officials appear to be targeting regulations that would pose a legal risk after the Supreme Court ruled in June that states must sometimes provide aid to faith-based organizations. In the decision, Trinity Lutheran Church of Columbia Inc. v. Comer, the court ruled that Missouri had engaged in unconstitutional religious discrimination when it denied a church-run preschool publicly funded tire scraps for its playground.

Additionally, Attorney General Jeff Sessions released a memo last fall in which he listed 20 principles that should guide agencies in enforcing federal laws.

"Except in the narrowest circumstances, no one should be forced to choose between living out his or her faith and complying with the law," Sessions wrote. "Therefore, to the greatest extent practicable and permitted by law, religious observance and practice should be reasonably accommodated in all government activity, including employment, contracting and programming."

The administration may be adopting an expansive interpretation of the Trinity decision. The funding at issue in the decision was for a nonreligious activity. Last week the New Jersey Supreme Court unanimously ruled that the decision did not prohibit New Jersey from denying state aid to repair damaged sanctuaries because that would support religion.

That is not stopping DeVos. The department plans to review regulations, keeping an eye out for provisions that "unnecessarily restrict participation by religious entities" and "to reduce or eliminate unnecessary burdens and restrictions on religious entities and activities," according to the department's explanation of its proposals.

WEATHER

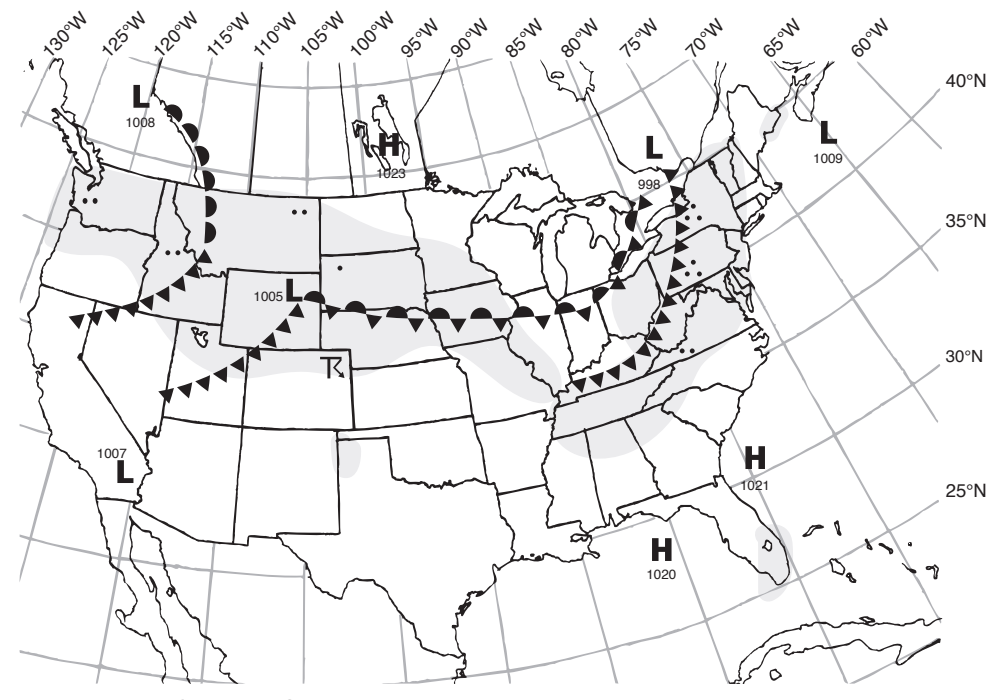
The heat wave cools down

By Sarah Weidman
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

Boston had a brief taste of summer this past week with temperatures over 90 °F — but don't expect similar heat this weekend. As a cold front pushes in from the west in the next couple of days, expect to feel some cooler (but not too cold) weather, with a high chance of rain on Saturday. But Boston is at least is having milder weather than other places in the U.S.; last week, some areas in the Colorado Rockies received almost a foot of snow, and tornado season is starting to come into full swing in the Great Plains region. Kansas and Oklahoma experienced some of the first severe tornadoes of the year this past week, with a total of 32 recorded tornadoes between May 1 and 3. More severe storms are expected to arrive as the tornado season continues.

Extended Forecast

Today: Partly cloudy. High around 69 °F (21 °C). Southwest winds at 15-20 mph.
Tonight: Chance of showers. Low around 53 °F (12 °C). West winds at 10-15 mph.
Tomorrow: Sunny. High around 66 °F (19 °C) and low around 50 °F (10 °C). Northwest winds at 5-10 mph.
Saturday: Showers likely. High around 55 °F (13 °C) and low around 52 °F (11 °C).
Sunday: Partly sunny. High around 67 °F (19 °C).



Situation for Noon Eastern Time, Thursday, May 10, 2018

Democrats in Rust Belt: stay close to Trump, but not too close

By Trip Gabriel and Sydney Ember
THE NEW YORK TIMES

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — A day after the first major primary contests of 2018, the political armies on the left and the right repositioned themselves for an intense general election across Rust Belt states that President Donald Trump carried two years ago — and where his personality and record will define the battles leading to the midterms.

Three states that voted Tuesday — Ohio, West Virginia and Indiana — were the heart of Trump country in 2016, and the president is moving aggressively to hold onto them; he has already intervened in one Senate race and plans to campaign in another one Thursday.

But historically this heartland region was in play for both parties, and Democrats hope it will be again, after earlier two-party contests saw a wave of disaffected voters reject Republican candidates in places as diverse as suburban Pittsburgh and Tidewater Virginia.

Republican strategy is straightforward: The victors on Tuesday heaped praise on Trump, inviting him to visit their states to campaign, and tarred opponents as "liberals" while invoking the name of Chuck Schumer, the New York senator and Democratic leader, as an epithet to hurl at opponents.

"You've been to this state now four times," Patrick Morrisey, the Republican Senate nominee in West Virginia, said in his acceptance speech, addressing the president. "I'd like you to come back as many times as you can between now and November."

The pressure on Morrisey's opponent, Sen. Joe Manchin, mounted immediately Wednesday as an outside group allied with Trump released an ad urging West Virginians to call Manchin and demand he vote for Gina Haspel, the White House nominee to lead the CIA, who is facing tough questions about the agency's use of torture on suspected terrorists.

Manchin announced later in the day that he would vote for Haspel, giving the White House a sheen of bipartisan support.

Mulvaney demotes student loan unit in Consumer Bureau reshuffle

By Glenn Thrush and Stacy Cowley
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — Mick Mulvaney, interim director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, will move the agency's student loan division into the bureau's consumer information unit, a shift that career officials fear will sidetrack a major enforcement case the agency is pursuing against Navient, the nation's largest student loan collector.

The change, outlined in an email sent to the bureau's staff Wednesday morning, is part of an effort by Mulvaney to refocus the agency away from its consumer finance enforcement and rule-writing mission and more toward providing consumers with information about their legal rights.

It follows a similar move Mulvaney made in February, when he folded the bureau's fair lending division into the consumer unit, telling staff it would "continue to focus on advocacy, coordination and education."

Among the bureau's career staff, the shift was regarded as a new attack on one of the bureau's core statutory functions, and another attempt by Mulvaney and his team to dismantle a consumer watchdog reviled by President Donald Trump.

One person at the bureau familiar with the student loan office's work said it clearly was being targeted. Mulvaney's reorganization left untouched several other groups with similarly specific focuses, including offices that concentrate on protecting service members and older Americans.

FDA moves to stop rogue clinics from using unapproved stem cell therapies

The Food and Drug Administration said Wednesday that it was seeking court orders to stop two clinics from using unapproved stem cell treatments that in some cases have seriously harmed patients.

The clinics remove fat from patients' bellies by liposuction and then inject an extract of it into various parts of the body like knees or the spinal cord, on the theory that the extract contains stem cells that can provide replacement cells that will repair the damage from injury or illness.

The agency filed two complaints seeking permanent injunctions in federal court, one against U.S. Stem Cell Clinic LLC of Sunrise, Florida; its chief scientific officer, Kristin Comella; and its co-owner and managing officer, Theodore Gradel.

The second complaint was against the California Stem Cell Treatment Center, with locations in Rancho Mirage and Beverly Hills; the Cell Surgical Network Corp. of Rancho Mirage; and Dr. Elliot B. Lander and Dr. Mark Berman.

The U.S. Stem Cell Clinic marketed stem cell products to patients without FDA approval and "while violating current good manufacturing practice requirements, including some that could impact the sterility of their products, putting patients at risk," the FDA said in a statement.

—Denise Grady and Sheila Kaplan, The New York Times

Five top ISIS officials captured in U.S.-Iraqi sting

BAGHDAD — Five senior Islamic State officials have been captured, including a top aide to the group's leader, in a complex cross-border sting carried out by Iraqi and American intelligence, two Iraqi officials said Wednesday.

The three-month operation, which tracked a group of senior Islamic State leaders who had been hiding in Syria and Turkey, represents a significant intelligence victory for the U.S.-led coalition fighting the extremist group and underscores the strengthening relationship between Washington and Baghdad.

Two Iraqi intelligence officials said those captured included four Iraqis and one Syrian whose responsibilities included governing the Islamic State's territory around Deir el-Zour, Syria, directing internal security and running the administrative body that oversees religious rulings.

Iraq's external intelligence agency published a statement confirming the arrests, but did not mention any details of the role played by the Americans or the Turks. The two Iraqi intelligence officials spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss details that had not been made public.

—Margaret Coker, The New York Times

Solution to Kitchen

from page 10

C	L	A	D	■	A	C	M	E	■	A	N	K	L	E
H	I	K	E	■	L	O	I	N	■	C	O	N	E	S
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Solution to Final

from page 10

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9	4	3	5	7	8	1	6	2
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8	7	5	3	2	1	6	9	4
3	9	6	7	5	4	2	8	1
1	5	8	4	9	7	3	2	6
6	2	9	1	3	5	4	7	8
7	3	4	8	6	2	5	1	9

Solution to Resting

from page 10

5	3	4	1	6	2
4	2	3	6	5	1
3	1	2	5	4	6
1	5	6	3	2	4
6	4	5	2	1	3
2	6	1	4	3	5

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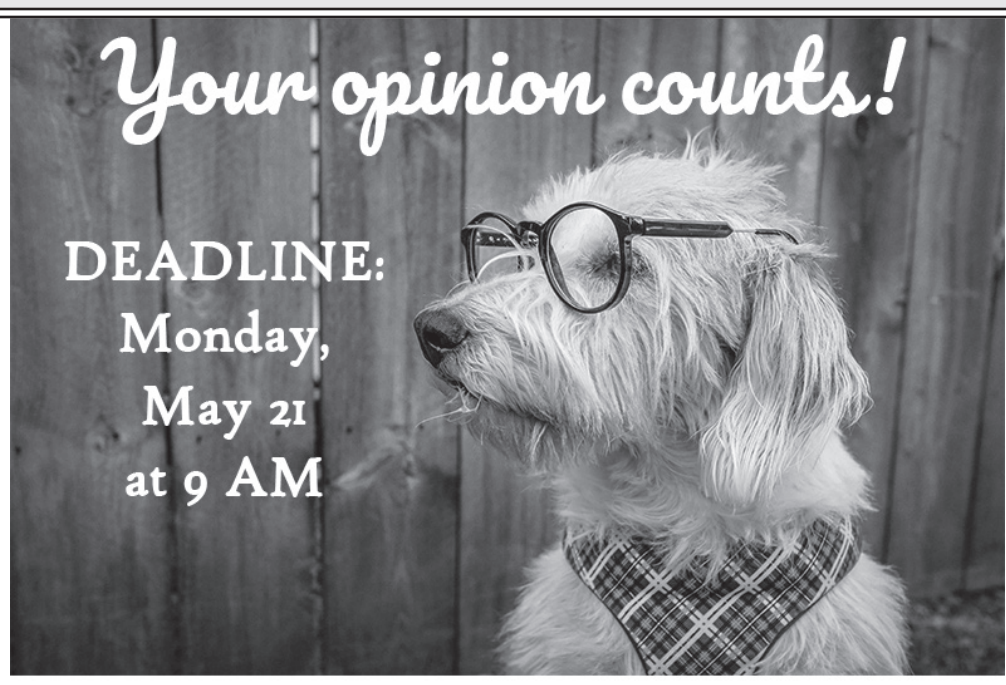

web.mit.edu/subjectevaluation

HAVE YOU EVER SEEN A STEM CELL? DO YOU KNOW HOW THEY WORK?

20.101 (2-0-4) (Fridays, 3-5) **20.102** (3-0-9)(Tues/Thurs 1-2:30)
Wm. G. Thilly, Elena V. Gostjeva

Both courses start with images of the bizarre *metakaryotic* stem cells of organogenesis in humans and other animals and plants following their metamorphoses from conception to maturity. Next come their changes in in carcinogenesis again featuring marked metamorphoses from adenomas to metastases that recreate the metakaryotic forms of organogenesis in reverse. Then come their peculiar modes of genome organization (circular chromosomes), replication (dsRNA/DNA intermediates), segregation (several amitotic modes) and, finally, restoration of dsDNA using the error prone DNA polymerases zeta and beta. This accords with measurements of mutant colonies in human lungs revealing a Luria-Delbruck distribution (look it up) and a remarkably high mutation rate in human organogenesis attributable to stem cells.

Epidemiology follows with reviews of the U.S. mortality data we collected and organized from 1900 through 2010 (males, females, two large ethnic groups). One can follow the rise in lung cancer in males and females in parallel with their different histories of cigarette use. One can devise tests to detect risks for other diseases. Computer models (MATLAB) uniting the biology of stem cells with the age-specific mortality of any are introduced and applied. (http://mortalityanalysis.mit.edu) **20.215** (G) offers advanced modeling experience.

Experiments in cell culture and human tumors reveal that metakaryotic cancer stem cells are constitutively resistant to x-rays and standard chemotherapy agents. Experiments in cell culture discover that many common medicaments are potent cancer stem cell killers if applied appropriately. First formal human clinical trial of a drug used to treat Lyme disease is found to leave nearly all pancreatic metakaryotic cancer stem cells dead or dying. Key papers for download: http://mortalityanalysis.mit.edu/AAA-METAKARYOTIC-BIOLOGY-PUBS.

Ad supported by the Ed Jakush ('67, X) Metakaryotic Biology Fund.

OPINION OPINION OPINION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Response to undergraduate course, MIT and Slavery: how should we acknowledge our history?

Following the release of the initial findings from the MIT and Slavery course in February 2018, an alum expressed concerns over the significance of the research in a letter to the editor titled "Commentary on MIT's new course, MIT and Slavery." The alum's lament that the course's research potentially "deprives us of a correct understanding of history, of human nature, and of our own state of being" raises several questions. Among them include: Who is encompassed in that "us" and "we"? What constitutes a "correct understanding" of history? And what is the significance of interrogating MIT's relationship to slavery? MIT's engagement with slavery exists in the context of a larger movement of universities researching and writing about their histories with slavery, beginning more than a decade ago and including peer institutions such as Brown, Georgetown, Harvard, Princeton, and Yale. As students of the Fall 2017 MIT and Slavery class, we would like to address these questions and the several arguments made in the opinion piece, and affirm our commitment to historical truth.

> **The class's goal was not to project "guilt forward or judgment backward in time," but rather to investigate the nuanced ways in which MIT developed and was connected to the slave economy.**

In order to reach a common understanding of the goals of and results of the class, we must begin with a common understanding of its context and progression. To clarify, the finding that Rogers owned slaves did not, in fact, prompt President Reif to encourage the community to examine Rogers's actions. Well before the revelation that Rogers was a slaveholder, President Reif had proposed that the MIT community explore the previously unstudied relationship between MIT and slavery through an undergraduate history class. Indeed, the purpose of the class was to grapple with MIT's place in a nation whose social, political, and economic spheres were inescapably entrenched in the institution of racialized chattel slavery. The class's goal was not to project "guilt forward or judgment backward in time," but rather to investigate the nuanced ways in which MIT developed and was connected to the slave economy. While the class led to findings confirming that William Barton Rogers held slaves, MIT's narrative about slavery neither begins nor ends with him. That Rogers was a slaveholder should not be the only focus of our community discussion, as our research has delved into even more topics regarding MIT's relationship with slavery. These include: the early attitudes of MIT towards a civic and moral education; the language of enslaved labor and race deployed by students and faculty; the teaching of racialized science in the early curriculum; the relationship between MIT's students to the South and the Reconstruction economy; the perception of black people through visual representations in late 19th-century student publications. Reducing our work to a "witch hunt" for slaveholders and racist alumni would be to do a grave disservice to both the quality of the class and the nature of historical research.

The opinion piece's accusation that we are "playing a self-destructive game" amounts to a charge of presentism that historians have heard before. To its extreme, the presentist critique — that it is inappropriate to cast a judgment on the past based on "modern" morality — could be used to rationalize nearly every grossly obvious misdeed in history, across eras and societies. It is a well-oiled excuse that takes for granted the artificial divide between past and present, used time after time to forgive slaveholders and slave-traders because there seemingly was no collective consciousness of the moral implications of slavery. However, history is not a bill of moral accusations to be contested in order to preserve our own comfort. The discovery that William Barton Rogers was a slaveholder is not an indictment. It is a historical fact. It is a historical fact that impels us to interrogate the conditions that made it possible. It is a historical fact that calls us to ask: How could a man like William Barton Rogers, our founder and first President, come to participate in the ownership of human beings?

It is easy and convenient to answer that question by claiming that historical actors could not have "anticipated the prevailing morality of today" — that they did not know what they were doing. They knew exactly what they were doing. The idea that people in the past were somehow ignorant to the moral complexities and wrongs of slavery due to their time is simply not historically accurate. Just as we contemplate moral issues raised by the opinion piece, historical actors contemplated their engagement with slavery. We cannot ignore the history of vocal abolitionist thought, nor can we ignore the voices of enslaved people who clearly objected to the system that brutalized and dehumanized them. Concepts of freedom, liberation, and abolition composed a national discussion that permeated every corner of America; no one is exempt from that context by the virtue of their time, and to exclude aspects of our nation's history from that context would be ahistorical. We compound the horrors of slavery by draping them in a veil of ignorance, but it is not our founding fathers and forebears we protect by portraying this history as anachronistic — it is only ourselves. We can throw up an artificial barrier between "historical" morality and "modern" morality to ward off confrontation, discomfort, and darkness, but it is our responsibility to investigate the conditions and people that perpetrated slavery, even if it means embracing that discomfort.

> **We compound the horrors of slavery by draping them in a veil of ignorance, but it is not our founding fathers and forebears we protect by portraying this history as anachronistic — it is only ourselves.**

The stories of slavery and abolitionism do not lie dormant in the past, and we are accountable in our creations of histories to include them. Until this point, the story of MIT has been presented as one of straightforward innovation and progress. As a class, we sought to complicate that narrative to present a more accurate picture. Communities will always be scared to rewrite heroic and innocent origin stories — scared that slavery taints the perfect picture they have painted in textbooks and the national conscious. We should not be surprised that it has taken so long to probe the Institute's history in this light; we do a remarkable job at hiding from, covering up, and erasing that which we are afraid of. Yet, this is our history. The examination of MIT in the context of slavery cannot be treated as auxiliary. When we consent to a history that ignores the reality of slavery, we actively participate in the silencing of the same voices that have been expunged from our national story for the last 250 years. But history is made and remade with fact-finding and open dialogue, and that is what we hope this class has enabled.

The slaves who were kidnapped, tortured, brutalized, maimed, and killed — the same slaves whose lives were taken for the foundation and growth of America — deserve to have their place in history included and underlined. And we have an opportunity to write them into history, with our exploration of MIT's relationship to slavery. Back in February, historian Craig Steven Wilder declared that "[w]e are not held captive by the past." We may be challenged by the emergence of previously ignored stories and voices to reflect on our past and what it means for us now as an institution, but we trust that this community will rise to the challenge.

— Mahalaxmi Elango '20, Charlotte Minsky '20.

Talking about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict

Understanding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is not easy. It requires learning about various narratives, carefully engaging with Israel's history, and thinking about the hard challenges faced by Jews, Palestinians, Bedouins, Christians, and Druze. Conversations about Israel on college campuses, in the United States, and most importantly in the Middle East need to be nuanced, thoughtful, and done with care.

Unfortunately, the wall that was stationed outside the Stratton Student Center throughout the week of April 22, 2018 did not provide a careful and productive way to engage with the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. It instead presented a one-sided view, selected facts, lacked context and used provocative and offensive imagery. For example, the mural failed to mention that the wall was built as a security measure in response to hundreds of Israelis that were murdered during the Second Intifada in 2000. Since the wall was built, terror attacks have declined by more than 90 percent, and the death toll of Israeli civilians from terror attacks has decreased significantly.

As another example, the mural referred to Gaza as an "Open-Air Prison." It did not mention that Gaza has a 12-kilometer-long border with Egypt or that Israel sends tons of goods to Gaza. Unfortunately, some of these goods have been used to build at least 15 terror tunnels leading into Israel that have put both civilians in Israel and in Gaza at risk. The mural also did not mention that Israel withdrew from Gaza in 2005 and that Hamas was elected to govern this area by the Palestinians. The leader of Hamas, Ismail Haniyeh, was recently designated by the U.S. State Department as a terrorist. Since January 2012, more than 2,604 rockets and mortars fired from Gaza have hit Israeli civilian areas, and rockets have even been found in a UNRWA school twice (the UNRWA is a United Nations agency established in 1949 to provide assistance and protection to Palestinian refugees).

We wholeheartedly encourage people to express their opinions regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. However, if the intention is to have a meaningful, constructive conversation between Israelis and Palestinians, it is important to present the full picture. Failing to do so is damaging for everyone. It only causes more hurt and divisiveness and unfortunately encourages radicalism on both sides. It is crucial for our actions and conversation about Israel to be fact and context based, educated, and levelheaded. We should acknowledge and address difficulties on both sides and engage in debate to one day build a better future for both Israelis and Palestinians.

— Keren Starobinski '18, Judith Fusman '21.

DID YOUR MIT ESSAYS GET YOU IN?

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ARTS ARTS ARTS

THEATER REVIEW

A recipe for disaster

Or the secret ingredient behind every bad performance

★☆☆☆☆

Cooking with the Calamari Sisters

Created by Jay Falzone, Dan Lavender, and Stephen Smith

Regent Theater

April 12–May 20

By Johnson Huynh
ASSOCIATE ARTS EDITOR

I really wanted to like *Cooking with the Calamari Sisters*. As a huge fan of musicals in general, I came in with high expectations for this production. Thus, I took an Uber ride all the way to Arlington to see if I could be impressed like I have been for the other theatrical productions in Boston. However, I quickly found out that the production ruined any hopes that I had.

A story about two sisters on the last episode of their television show, *Cooking with the Calamari Sisters*, aspired to be a humorous foray into Italian life. What it does, instead, is fall flat on its face on multiple levels. The main characters, Delphine and Carmela Calamari are caricatures of the stereotypical Italian women. They riff about each other's weights and about the complicated family history that they share. While I understand that their portrayals are meant to be self-deprecating, I felt completely unamused by the acting going on in the production. It felt clichéd, relying on these straw men of actual people to relay its humour.

Most importantly, the leading roles are confusingly played by two male actors. It makes no sense to be adding this extra layer of so-called "physical comedy" to the production. Both the Calamari sisters are frustrating in their own ways, and I constantly found myself cringing from their performance. It was as though I was back home, watching old Vietnamese television shows and their antiquated portrayals of gender. That is to say, I found no entertainment in the handling of the characters nor in the over-exaggeration wrought upon us by the actors.

Furthermore, the jokes that were told during the play were awkward at best and irritating at worst. They were unoriginal, seeming to originate from some corner of the broadcast universe. To make matters worse, they constantly played off the idea that these women were Italian and therefore they must be hilarious. While the audience around me cackled over the crass humour intoxicating the room, I tried my best to salvage their trainwreck of a comedy routine in my head to tide me over until intermission.

Nothing appeared to save this production from the faults of its acting, staging, and set design. Multiple times did I find myself recoil from the impossibly cringeworthy performance that rooted itself on stage. And while this production marketed itself as a musical, I rarely found any signs of inspiring musical numbers. If anything, they felt like an imitation of a threepenny Off Broadway show. The only thing that could possibly redeem it was the gaudiness of the stage itself or maybe the dance routines that attempted to vainly inject substance into this mess. In the end, neither route worked. Cluttered and claustrophobic yet without any significant meaning, the stage was a labor to look at. Coming in for the horrific tag team, the dance routines were senseless smoke and mirrors to try and distract you from the void that wanted to burst from the seams.

To put it shortly, this production is not worth your time nor the effort to travel all the way to Arlington. Spend your time watching other performances with more substance underneath them rather than this gasping amalgamation of shameless theatrical tropes.

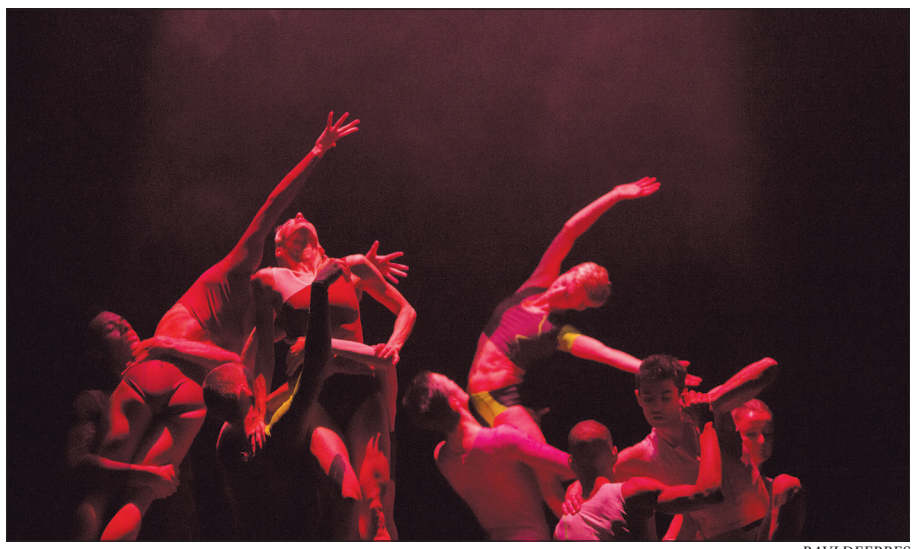
COURTESY OF REGENT THEATER

The Calamari Sisters pose in front of their stage at *Cooking with the Calamari Sisters*.

BALLET REVIEW

Humanity without its core

Wayne McGregor combines dance and technology for a thought-provoking commentary on humanity and society



RAVI DEEPRES

Dancers reach everywhere yet nowhere at the same time in *Atomos*, directed by Wayne McGregor.

Atomos

Company Wayne McGregor

Presented by Celebrity Series of Boston

Boch Center Shubert Theatre

May 4–5

By Carolyn Fu
STAFF WRITER

Wayne McGregor is a fascinating choreographer. His genre of dance is most often referred to as contemporary ballet — but he himself has never been trained in ballet, and instead traces his roots back to ballroom dancing and disco. As such, his movements know no bounds, nor do they even have a language; McGregor directs his dancers using appellations like *"wey,"* "*tyum*," or "*hah*," which have a faint correlation with various adages or ports de bras, but mostly correspond to a specific style of energy and emotion that his dancers learn over time. The result is a set of physiological utterances that emerge from his dancers like a primal expression of humanity.

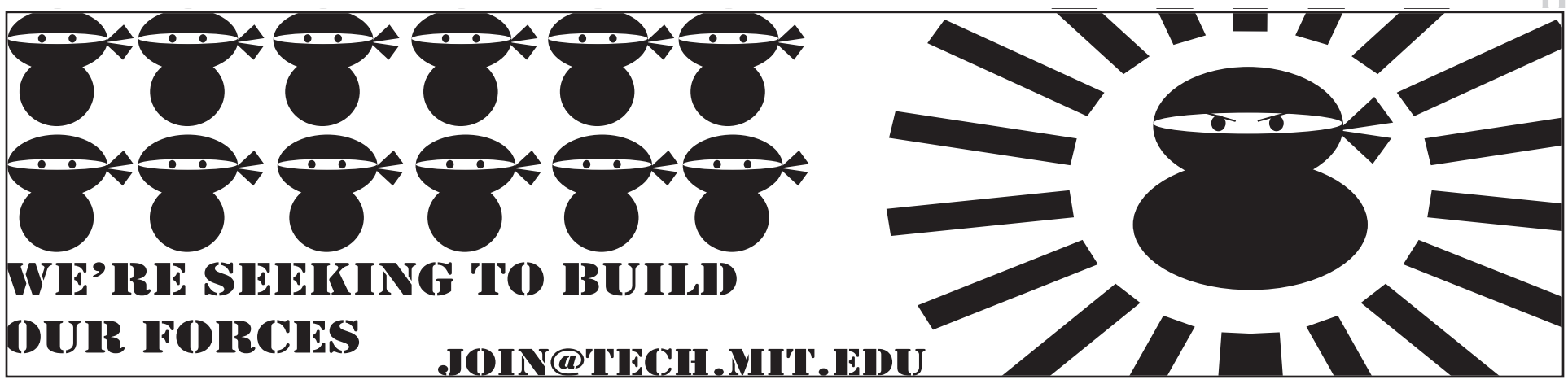
Company Wayne McGregor is perhaps where one can see McGregor's work in its truest form. While McGregor has produced multiple award winning pieces for companies around the world (especially in his role as the Resident Choreographer at The Royal Ballet), he created his own company in 1992 as an avenue for his most experimental work. Its dancers live and breathe his choreography and are perhaps the most truthful vessels of his ideas.

At first glance, *Atomos* feels like an experiment that he might have taken a tad too far. Dancers' limbs wend around their bodies as if having a mind of their own, and dancers flow into and around one another as if unable to grasp the concept of tangible matter. Adding to the physical milieu is a visual one of 3D animations (ranging from numbers to bugs to factory chimneys) projected across several hanging screens, while a blend of electronic and symphonic music throws audial complexity into the mix as well.

But the issue is not that the end result is cacophonous — in fact, the elements all complement one another quite perfectly. The problem is instead that they complement one another *too* well, such that it is unclear what is actually driving the performance. At some points, the movements follow the music; at others, the movements seem to dictate the visuals; and ultimately, all give way to one another so as to have no beginning and no end. With no plausible narrative to focus my attention on, I tired very early on from the sensory overload.

It was only in reviewing the program notes after the piece ended that I then came to understand the tapestry that McGregor was trying to weave. I was initially attracted to *Atomos* after hearing of its novel use of biomechanical data, but was surprised to find none of this data at play during the piece. As it turns out, this was actually incorporated into the *creation* of the piece, where dancers interacted with an AI dancer generated from an amalgam of sensors they each wore. It is hence no wonder that the piece came across as quite so adrift, as its center of gravity had been extracted from the final product.

The piece was then exactly as McGregor had intended: a commentary on the questions of "What are the atoms that together make humanity present?" What more are we than "the connections that emerge as part of the relations between us?" *Atomos'*s answer to this is: Not much else. Just as the dancers appear disjointed when you remove the connective tissue of the AI they were created from, you can likewise make no true sense of any individual person without understanding the society from which they derive.



RESTAURANT REVIEW

Veggies with style

Whole Heart-healthy food

BRIAN SAMUELS

Workers bustle about at Whole Heart Provisions's opening night.

By Kaitlyn Hennacy and Talia Khan

Whole Heart Provisions just opened up their newest location in Central Square on Mass Ave (their original location is in Allston). The brainchild of Rebecca Arnold (chef/owner) and James DiSabatino (who also owns the nearby restaurant Roxy's), Whole Heart Provisions offers its customers fast, casual, vegan food for around $10–15 per meal. Arnold, a Boston native who has worked in many upscale restaurants around town, relishes in creating healthy, colorful bowls that taste expensive, but are cheap enough for students.

Talia: I got the Levant bowl (goes for $11.25, plus tax). This large bowl contained: smashed cucumber, japanese eggplant, tomato, red cabbage slaw, pickled cauliflower, tahini, harissa, crispy chickpeas, sesame, and falafel on top of kale and jasmine rice (per Arnold's recommendation). While the hipster decor and bowl names seemed a little pretentious, the food was not. The myriad veggies complemented each other well, as did the dressing on top, and the crunch of the crispy chickpeas was really gratifying. My only critique is that the falafel was overcooked and, well, not that good; if you really want falafel that is close to campus, just go to Clover.

Both of us agreed that while the seared avocado was a hit (the crispy lentils on top were delicious with the smooth avocado), neither one of us would have been willing to shell out $4.50 for a half an avocado, no matter how good the lentils are.

Kaitlyn: I ordered the Tazon ($8.85, plus tax), a Mexican-inspired bowl that brought in some Korean flavors. I loved it for its fruitiness. The kale and brown rice base was dressed in lime vinaigrette and tossed with pineapple bits. On top, you find spin-offs of typical taco ingredients (the non-meat ones, at least): pickled jalapenos, red cabbage slaw, and corn nuts which look like corn kernels but taste like fried tortilla chips to name a few. The spices on the cucumbers and Korean black beans infused the dish with flavors of *banchan*. Judging from the name, I was not expecting a Korean-Mexican fusion dish, but I appreciated how well the ingredients came together.

I admire the chefs' efforts to bring fine-cooking to the average consumer quickly and (usually) at a price under $10. While the food was a step above other fast-casual restaurants, I believe that some of the terminology used in the descriptions was a bit exaggerated. The "smashed" cucumber really just tastes like a normal diced cucumber, and the "cured" tomatoes are not much different from regular cherry tomatoes. For the most part, though, the toppings that dress their dishes would satisfy any foodie's dreams.

For the rest of the month of May, you can bring your student ID in and get a free housemade drink. Also, they're launching a new app on Monday, May 7 and when you download it, you will automatically get $5 off your first order of $15 or more.

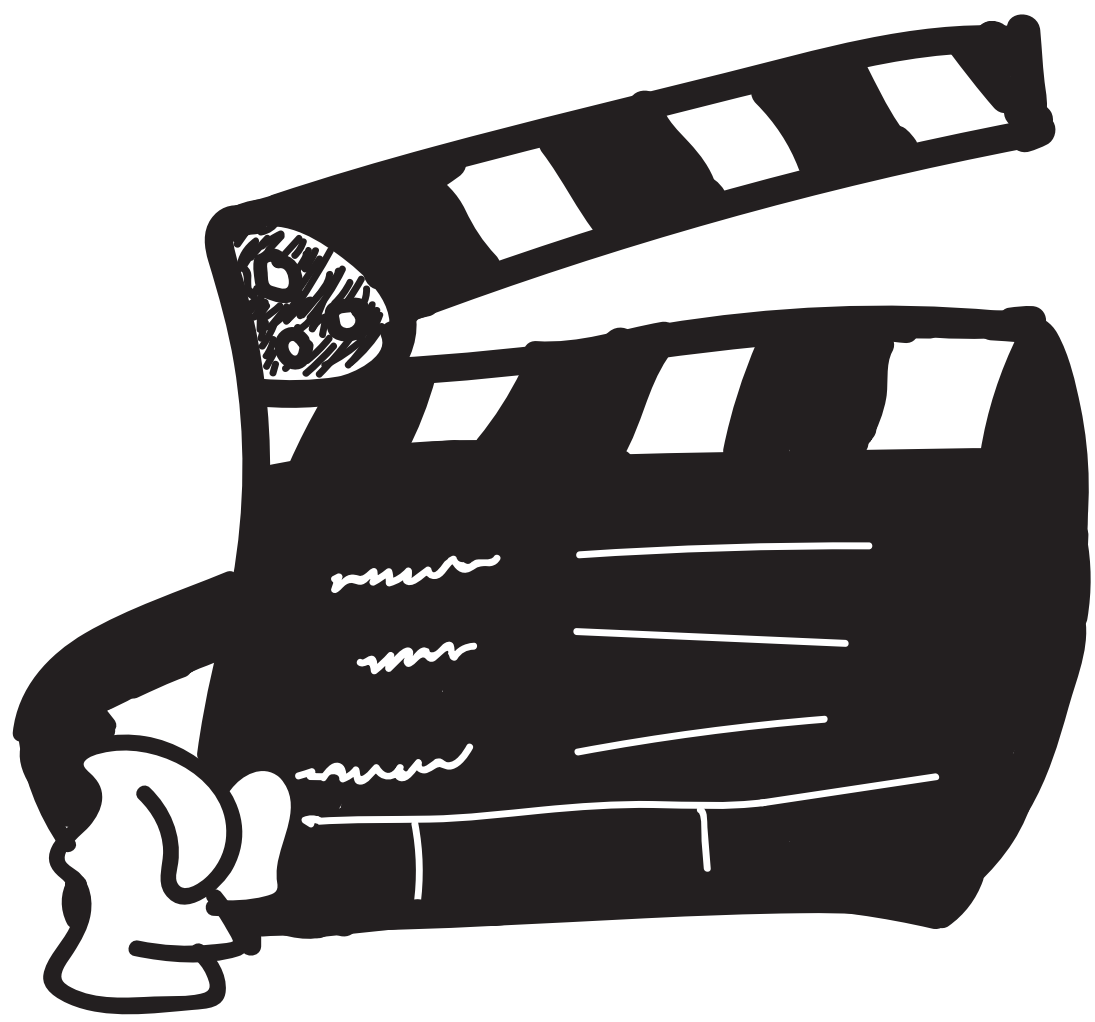
★★★★☆

Whole Heart Provisions

Vegan, $

298 Massachusetts Ave, Cambridge, MA

Monday–Saturday 10:30 a.m.–10 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m.–10 p.m.



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ADVICE

In the heat of the moment

Auntie Matter on love and anger

By Auntie Matter

If you have questions for Auntie Matter, please submit them at tinyurl.com/AskAuntieMatter. Questions have been edited for length, clarity, and content.

Dear Auntie Matter,

I have a crush on my former tutor. She's two years older than me, though, and I know the last guy she dated was a few years older than her, so I'm worried I'm not her type. We've run into each other in a few social settings and she seems to really like me, but I'm not sure if it's as a student. What should I do?

— Hot for Teacher

Dear Hot,

Auntie Matter doesn't have a crystal ball. Nor is she a mind-reader. She cannot tell you whether this girl likes you or not.

The one thing Auntie can tell you for sure is that you should ask her out. The costs are low — it seems as though you don't see her that often, so in the worst possible case, you would easily be able to avoid her.

If you are concerned about the act of asking her out, never fear! Auntie Matter has a few tips.

First, be confident but casual. Do not pressure her (as in repeatedly asking even when she keeps saying no), but also don't equivocate (as in, "I mean only if you want...it's okay if you say no...I don't mind"). Make it seem like it's not a big deal to ask her out, and it's not a big deal what her answer is — because, in the end, it's not.

Second, be clear about what you're talking about. Use the word "date" so that there's no confusion about whether or not you're asking her out. Do not say, "Do you want to hang out sometime?" or anything to that effect. That is ambiguous.

Third, look for a relatively free moment where there are few people around, but don't wait too long for the perfect moment. There won't be one.

Finally, good luck. And to all our readers — ask your crush out!

Dear Auntie Matter,

What are healthy ways of expressing anger that won't offend other people? I'm usually rude when angry, and I'd like to do better.

— Hulk No Smash

Dear Hulk,

You want to know about "expressing anger" well. Auntie would encourage you to have a different goal: you should strive to be less angry, especially when appropriate. It seems like you are struggling with something, given the frequency and intensity of anger that your letter implies. It would probably be better for you, in dealing with whatever you are going through, to approach your life with less anger.

With that in mind, here are some thoughts on how to be less angry in general. After you have calmed down, reflect on why you were angry or what made you angry. Often, our anger is irrational, and when we realize that our anger is irrational once, we may be less angry about the same thing in the future. Anger can stem from many things, for example, from a realization that we ourselves are in the wrong; from a sense that we are owed more than we received; or from a hope that if we get angry enough, someone will solve our problem for us. If you can figure out where your anger stems from, it might grow less intense.

However, before you can be less angry overall, you need to calm down in the moment. Here are some suggestions that may help you calm your anger.

Auntie finds that a night of sleep can often calm any emotion, leaving you more prepared in the morning. Alternatively, if you know someone who is good at keeping their cool and who seems to understand anger, you might talk to them when you are angry, and they could help you calm down. You could distract yourself by watching a favorite show or looking up an interesting topic. You could exercise.

Finally, Auntie cautions you not to act in anger. The most "healthy" way of expressing anger, in Auntie's opinion, is to manage it yourself and then address the issue you were angry about once you are calm.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

A biomedical chemical engineer

Meet Sarah, a PhD student active within MIT student life

Sarah Shapiro, fourth-year PhD

Course 10 (Chemical Engineering)

Lives in Off Campus Apartment

From Iowa

Graduate Student Advisory Board for Chemical Engineering (GSAB), Graduate Student Council (GSC), Sewing, i.e. engineer of the cloth

By Tafsia Shikdar
STAFF WRITER

This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

How would you describe chemical engineering (ChemE)?

In chemistry, you might focus on how one molecule interacts with another, but in ChemE, you look more broadly at the physical constraints of a particular application: how you deliver different compounds to one another, how a reaction proceeds on different time scales. I would say the core principles of ChemE are kinetics, thermodynamics and transport.

How would you describe your PhD project to a layman?

I'm interested in the biomedical side of Course 10, in creating things that can be used to improve health. Currently, I'm working on developing medical diagnostic devices for use in clinics in India. Specifically, I'm working on diagnosing hypothyroidism, a thyroid dysfunction, which is quite a big issue in India. A fun part of my project is that I've been able to travel there four times so far.

In terms of what I am actually doing: typically, there is a specific target we try to detect, for example in blood. By measuring how much there is of this molecule in the blood, you can determine whether the person has a specific disease or not. There is a lot of chemical engineering involved while thinking about how we best capture these molecules — for example, looking at fluid flow properties, diffusion properties or just reaction properties.

How did you end up pursuing a PhD at MIT?

I have a chemical engineering background, but I was always more interested in the biological applications of it. I did my undergraduate and master's degree at the University of Oklahoma. I wanted to do a PhD because I was more interested in research than being assigned a specific task to do — I like thinking more broadly about new things we can learn and discover. I was drawn to MIT because of the emphasis on application. I'm really interested in making things that can be used in the real world, and MIT really focuses on that.

Were there any surprises when you first came to MIT?

I expected the MIT community to be really competitive, but it wasn't, which was cool. The first year in ChemE is notorious for being very difficult, but everyone banded together and were willing to help each other with psets (homework). Also, for ChemE here, you are required to do a minor: three classes that aren't cross-listed with Course 10. For mine, I did some Sloan courses focused on entrepreneurship in developing communities, which aligns nicely with my current research.

What are the biggest differences between Iowa and Cambridge?

The pace of life is more laid back there. Here, everyone is rushing around all the time, and there are always too many things to do and not enough time to do them. There, everything is a lot slower. I can tell when I go back to visit — I always slow down a little.

What do you do in your spare time?

Since I live far off campus, I'm not that involved in MIT activities, although I'm on the GSAB: a group of students that tries to interface with the faculty in ChemE. I'm also on the GSC. And then in my free time away from MIT, I really enjoy sewing! I like to make clothes and create things maybe from a picture I've seen. Engineering with fabric!

What have you done with the GSC?

About a year ago, I was co-chair of the Housing and Community Affairs Committee. We worked on a lot of things related to families on campus, as well as housing. Every year, we advocate for graduate student stipends — looking at changes in the cost of living and comparing stipend levels here to other universities. In the end, we were successful in getting an increase!

You mentioned you have a family yourself — has that been challenging?

Yes, I'm married. I live with my spouse, Jesse, in Melrose — he works in the area. We met in Oklahoma, and moved here together. It's definitely challenging because there are always different things that compete for your time and attention. So it's about thinking about what things are important to you and focusing your time there. I focus on splitting it between graduate school, which is important to me, and marriage, which is also important to me!

What are your plans after MIT?

I'm interested in working in industry R&D long term, potentially in Boston. I really love the area here, so I'd certainly be open to staying, but it depends on where I find a job.

Do you have any advice for underclassmen?

I think what's really important is to figure out what you are interested in and to follow that, and that's different for each person. Even though the earlier you can figure it out the better, make sure to take some time, especially in early years, to try different things to figure out what you would like to focus on. For some fields, graduate school is important, but in others, going straight into industry might be better. So think about what kind of career you want to have, and what steps you have to take early on to achieve that.

JESSE SHAPIRO

Sarah Shapiro, a grad student in Course 10, works on diagnostic medical devices for Indian communities.

Would you rather have a dog with a cat's personality or a cat with dog's personality?

A cat with a dog's personality — I like cats because they are really low maintenance, but then dogs are super affectionate and happy to see you all the time, so a low maintenance dog personality would be great!

Would you rather be able to reverse one decision you make each day or be able to stop time for 10 seconds each day?

Reverse one decision, because it would be freeing to not have to think about consequences all the time!

What one thing would you want to have with you on a desert island?

Some kind of a tool, maybe a knife, so I could build a shelter.

What one value do you prize above all others?

Honesty. It's really important for genuine relationships with people.

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FRIDAY MAY 18 8PM KRESGE

Creator of the World Wide Web talks about corporations, data, privacy

Berners-Lee: in path back towards 'utopia,' we must give users more control of their data

By Lucy Liao

Sir Tim Berners-Lee, co-creator of the Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP) and director of the World Wide Web Consortium (W3), delivered the Dertouzous Distinguished Lecture May 2. In his lecture, titled "Utopia to Dystopia in 29 Short Years," he traced the history of the internet back to its roots, describing his initial work linking the internet and hypertext, two technologies that existed before his work.

Through HTTP, Hypertext Markup Language (HTML), and the Uniform Resource Identifier (URI), Berners-Lee was able to create an information-sharing model that became the World Wide Web. However, his lecture was anything but a technical explanation of how the internet came to be. Berners-Lee shared his vision of what the internet would become and how reality fell short of his vision, and shared plans to recapture his initial vision.

While political movements toppled regimes throughout Eastern Europe in 1989, Berners-Lee wrote "Information Management: A Proposal," a paper that described his vision for a networked hypertext system for CERN. In the spirit of the uprisings of 1989, Berners-Lee envisioned an open, decentralized internet in which people could collaborate to create a better world. He predicted an internet which would promote information-sharing across geographic and cultural boundaries. Although the internet certainly has promoted information sharing and collaboration, Berners-Lee still believes that his utopia has not come to fruition.

Twenty-nine years after the launch of the World Wide Web, Berners-Lee sees significant problems with the current state of the internet. Through the relaxed net neutrality laws, large corporations can limit what content internet users can access. Also, the recent controversy over privacy rights in the wake of Cambridge Analytica and the 2016 election easily show how the internet is doing the opposite of empowering individuals.

Berners-Lee ended his talk by describing what he sees as our dystopia. He sees an internet that is increasingly dominated by a few large corporations like Twitter and Facebook. With corporations dominating the internet, Berners-Lee argues that the internet becomes less about empowering the individual and more about serving the capitalist system.

The path back to utopia involves giving users more control of their data, which would create more value for them. People value their access to privacy more than corporations value data, according to Berners-Lee. To recapture the utopia of the initial vision of the internet, we must decentralize the web. Berners-Lee described his own work in creating Solid, a new set of web protocols which would promote user privacy and decentralized web applications.

MIT selects Compass Group for new dining contract

MIT has selected Compass Group and its subsidiaries Bon Appétit and Restaurant Associates to manage its food and dining contract for the next seven years. The new contract will begin July 1.

In an email to all students, Vice President and Dean for Student Life Suzy Nelson wrote that there were three companies bidding for the dining contract, and Compass "presented the best program."

The two other companies who submitted bids were Aramark and Sodexo, according to MIT News.

Students can expect some changes to dining in the fall. "Compass proposed some great new cuisines for house dining, like smoked barbecue, Mongolian grill and stir fry, and hearth-style flatbreads," Mark Hayes, director of campus dining, told *MIT News*. "Meal plan holders will also have more grab-n-go breakfast options, performance bowls, and enhanced late-night dining options."

"Major changes" to the Lobdell Food Court on the second floor of the student center are also expected to start beginning in the contract's second year, according to MIT News.

Compass will be working with food insecurity working groups around campus, and the SwipeShare program is going to continue, according to Hayes in an interview with *The Tech*.

The new contract will also bring new management to MIT, Hayes said. Dining at MIT is expanding, which means that more staff are being hired.

In March, a petition was started at McCormick dining to "Keep All Dining Staff," as residents were concerned that the head chefs and other members of the management would be replaced due to the changes.

The current staff in dining buildings will not be replaced, Hayes reassured.

A restructured meal plan system that includes meals per semester options and dining dollars is also part of the new contract. The team working on the plans worked closely with students to make sure the plans suited students' needs.

Hayes said that students also want a plan that offers around 160 meals per semester, since there is a jump from 125 to 190, and they are now working to include this.

Dining will be reviewed on a quarterly basis, and the team will continue to seek feedback from students and student groups, Hayes said.

— Matthew Baldwin

Novartis park by MIT open

Last weekend, the Novartis Institute for Biomedical Research (NIBR) opened their park to the public, according to Jeffrey Lockwood, NIBR global communications director, in an email to *The Tech*.

The park provides a direct route between several student living groups (Zeta Psi, the Women's Independent Living Group, and Random Hall) and the east side of campus.

The park is now accessible 9 a.m.–5 p.m. on weekends, according to Lockwood. Previously, the courtyard had been closed at different times "due to regular maintenance, and snow and ice conditions."

— Mark Goldman

Universities don't have 'generalized duty' to prevent student suicide

Lawsuit, from Page 1

"Nguyen never communicated by words or actions to any MIT employee that he had stated plans or intentions to commit suicide," the MIT employees involved in the case had no legal duty to prevent his death. Nguyen had indicated to defendant S3 Senior Associate Dean David Randall that he would "like to keep the fact of my depression separate from my academic problems," and revoked MIT's permission to contact the outside professionals he was seeing.

Although the court exculpated the defendants in the specific case, it made note of the circumstances under which it would consider a university responsible for the suicide of one of its students. For example, it stated that universities must take "reasonable measures ... to protect the student from self-harm" if the student has recently attempted suicide or expressed suicidal intentions to the university's knowledge.

However, the decision noted that this does not constitute "a generalized duty to prevent suicide," and that employees who are not trained clinicians, like professors, are not expected to recognize suicidal tendencies. Reliance of the student on the university for basic needs is also an important factor — Nguyen, in this case, was 25 years old and lived in an off campus apartment, so he did not meet this standard.

ALEXANDER JERMOE SANDBERG—THE TECH

Customers mill about at the Central Flea Market at University Park that is taking place every Sunday 11 a.m.–5 p.m. from May to October at 91 Sidney Street.

Díaz still to teach this fall, SHASS dean says

Díaz, from Page 1

process we follow — and we strive to protect the privacy of all parties involved," the statement said.

Díaz is still scheduled to teach this fall, according to SHASS Dean Melissa Nobles in an email to *The Tech*.

CMS/W Department Head Edward Schiappa emailed Byrne the following day, writing, "I thought I would reach out to you in my capacity as Head of Comparative Media Studies/Writing to say that we were unaware of the events that were reported yesterday prior to the tweets that came out," according to Byrne in an email to *The Tech*.

The Boston Children's Museum and the Cambridge Public Library have since cancelled their events featuring Díaz, according to the *Boston Globe*.

INSPIRE disbanded due to lack of members

INSPIRE, from Page 1

and couldn't figure out the logistics? This wasn't established until after we submitted our research papers," Hansiddh Chaswal, one of the participants, said in a phone interview with *The Tech*. "We were taken for a ride."

However, according to MIT INSPIRE President Ethan Vo '19, the decision to cancel the competition was made by faculty advisors Deborah Fitzgerald and Jeffrey Ravel. "I didn't want to do that. We [the student organizers] fought back the decision, but they overruled us," Vo said. "We still had time to recruit judges, in my opinion. But, the internal deadline that our advisor set had not been met." Ravel could not be reached for comment.

High school teachers, students, and parents contacted SAO Director Leah Gallant about the abruptly cancelled competition. "To try to address those concerns, I then had conversations with SHASS leadership, the faculty mentors, and INSPIRE's student leaders. We worked together to come up with a solution that will turn INSPIRE into a one-time, smaller-scale [no on-campus judging and awards ceremony], virtual competition in the fall," Gallant wrote in an email to *The Tech*. "This means that we will be able to honor the commitment made to the high school students who applied without burdening the student leaders, who we understand are very busy."

However, Vo was unaware that there will be a virtual competition in the fall.

A graduate assistant has been hired to recruit the judges who will review the competition submissions, according to Gallant. The participants will be notified later this week of the fall competition.

There will be no competition next year. "MIT INSPIRE has been disbanded because there was only two students involved and you need five students to remain a recognized student organization," Gallant wrote in an email to *The Tech*.

"Like many student activities, they change as students graduate. It's difficult to maintain continuity given the rhythms of student life and changes in leadership," SHASS Dean Melissa Nobles said in an interview with *The Tech*.

ALEXANDER JERMOE SANDBERG—THE TECH

Students show off their wares at the Student Art Association's Spring Ceramics Sale happening this week in Lobby 10.